



UKRAINIAN ART CENTER NEWS

THE UNSTOPPABLE FORCE OF THE ARTS

A Quarterly Newsletter | Issue No. 02 Summer 2016

Silent Auction Event

On June 11th, the Ukrainian Art Center, Inc. held their second event - a Silent Auction Fundraiser. It was nicely attended by both Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians as part of UAC's outreach program to promote awareness about Ukrainian art.

Over 40 pieces of art were available for auction bids - some very notable among them. Items offered included ceramic pieces, ornate wooden carvings, and framed artworks. This unique and valuable art collection presented at the exhibition and auction belonged to Ariadna Terlecky and was generously donated by her daughter Nana Vecerek.



At 2pm it was time for our guest speaker - Maxim Kuzin. Maxim is currently working toward his PHD in Musical Conducting at UCLA. He works as a Conductor for the UCLA orchestra, and is the Director of the National Children's Chorus in Los Angeles. Maxim spoke on the topic of "Philanthropy - Impacting Lives and the Future", and relayed how much private donors had helped him in getting to be named as one of the top 100 up and coming conductors.

The rest of the program included a video showing Ukrainian dance and music, as well as tasty Cuban treats from Porto's.

At 4pm, the winning bidders were announced and collected their pieces.

The event was hosted at the private home of Meka and Wilf Voge in Newport Beach, CA. Many thanks to everyone who participated in making the event a success!

Ukrainian Wedding

I had an opportunity to be a part of Ukrainian Wedding in Colorado at the end of July. I was pleasantly surprised to see so many Ukrainian traditions being observed at the wedding. I have read about them, seen

them on video, but never experienced them in person. The wedding was attended by about 50 people, many of them non-Ukrainians and everyone was glued to the scene including our oldest son's 12 year old twins and other children.



Both the bride and groom were dressed in traditional, regional embroideries. The bride's head wreath - "vinok" was made in Kyiv, Ukraine. The ceremony began with the bride and groom asking and receiving blessings with an antique icon decorated by a small beautifully embroidered runner - "rushnyk". It was a very emotional scene for both mothers and family. This was held in the privacy of the home.



The activity moved to the garden where the guests were awaiting the bride and groom and the first scene began with the bartering for the hand of the bride. Haggling between the representatives of the groom - "starosty" and bride's representatives what the groom has to provide as a price for the bride. Groom's inadequate responses led to him being required to down a shot of vodka and come up with a better offer.

Brides representative joined him in this act. Since there were only a few wrong answers, no one had a chance to become inebriated. When

the groom made a satisfactory offer, the bride's representative brought to the bartering table a man dressed as an old woman as a prospective bride.

After the groom rejected her, they brought the lovely bride. After the settled agreement between the bride and groom, the mothers broke dishes for good luck.

In a short time the bride and groom were led to the marriage ceremony spot which had very large and again full of colorful embroidery runners and the tradition goes that which one of them stepped on the "rushnyk" - runner first, will be the upper hand in the marriage.

The bride and groom dedicated their personal pledges to each other in the marriage ceremony and promised to share their devotion to each other equally.

The ceremony was followed by a scrumptious dinner prepared from scratch by the bride to be with the help of her mother and sister who came from Kyiv for the wedding. All three women are medical doctors. It is heartening to see them upholding our traditions despite their busy schedules.

The dinner ended with the sharing of the "korovay" - wedding bread prepared jointly by the bride and groom and distributed to all the guests. Then came the dessert, five different flavor typical home made tortes prepared by the groom's mother and sister. As usual, there were many champagne toasts, some long and some short. The ceremony continued with the bride and groom performing the first dance with guests, including children following. Interspersed there were games similar to American parlor games. The last traditional event was the throwing of the "vinok" - bride's head wreath and thus insuring that the wedding traditions will continue by a young lady catching it.

The garden setting; among mature giant pines, trees and colorful flowers, the music in the background, the hors d'oeuvres and the tented well stocked bar kept the atmosphere delightful well into the evening hours. "Mnohaya Lita" - many years Oleksandra and Iko.

My toast to you -

May you always have food when you're hungry, champagne when you are dry, money when you need it, and a rainbow in the sky.

By Daria Chaikovsky

A Word From the President

Ukrainian Art Center held an Art Exhibit and Auction on June 11, 2016. The auction was very successful, especially since it was our first effort of this type. It was well attended and held at the lovely residence of Dr. Wilf and Meka Voge surrounded by their impressive collection of art, in scenic Corona del Mar.

The art presented at the auction came from the collection of Ara Terlecky. Together with her husband Yaroslav or Slavko they came to California in 1978. Both were active members of Ukrainian community, he belonged to the Ukrainian Engineers Society and she was a long time member of Ukrainian Woman's League of America and at one time was the President of the Los Angeles Chapter. Ara also spent



several years as a nurse at Plast, Ukrainian Youth Organization, summer camps as Sky Meadow in San Bernardino mountains. She enjoyed the young people, and always looked forward to the next year.



With "golden" age come all kinds of difficulties. Long illness forced Ara to sell her home and at the present time she resides in a nursing facility, where her daughter, Roxolana Vecerek has lovingly taken care of her mother's needs.

Ukrainian Art Center thanks all the supporters that came, and especially those that took part in the silent auction acquiring exceptional art. Our appreciation and thanks to Meka and Wilf for hosting our event.

Ukrainian Art Center is grateful and sincerely thanks Roxolana Vecerek for such a generous donation of her parent's art collection to facilitate UAC's goal to establish a Museum of Ukrainian Art in Southern California.

- Daria Chaikovsky

Spotlight

Interview by Olenka Krupa Griffies

Maxim Kuzin, doctoral student, and conductor of UCLA orchestras and opera as well as a guest speaker at our Silent Art Auction, agreed to answer a few questions for us (taken from James Lipton's Inside the Actors Studio).

What is your favorite word?

There are two: 'Unity' and 'Baha'u'llah' and both are related to the Baha'i Faith.



What is your least favorite word?

'Hate' - a word or feeling of extremely ignorant people. I can't stand it, even with all my tolerance.

What turns you on?

Outside of sex: inventive and brilliant ideas as well as the same quality music fire me up.

What turns you off?

In regular life circumstances, when someone deprives the gift of life of others no matter what reason is behind this. Defending is a different story, though.

What sound do you love?

Balanced sound of a good symphony orchestra. It is just so beautiful, noble and uplifting!

What sound do you hate?

Gritting of glass against metal. It's just awful!

What is your favorite curse word?

I don't really like any of them. It makes sense and brings smile to my face if they are occasionally used as an artistic mean of expression of a feeling (as opposed to cursing something or someone using them)!

What profession other than yours would you like to attempt?

It may sound silly and childish but a spy agent. I think I could be a good one, if I would not become a conductor.

What profession would you not like to do?

Flusher (but I respect those people who can do this). I just can't, sorry! (A Flusher is someone who cleans sh*t).

If heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the pearly gates?

It would be so great to hear something like "You did all you could! Welcome!". But since I already know that I won't hear this, at least "Welcome!" could work well!

UAC HIGHLIGHTS

1

On Sunday, August 28th, we were treated to an unexpected concert at NBVM church by visiting Bandura player Taras Yanytskiy. He is from Kiev and visiting friends Maxim and



Vika Kuzin. He played several Ukrainian pieces and took questions from the audience, then spent some time with the children that came to hear him play. The hall was packed!

UAC HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)

2

Ukrainian Art Center participated in The International Youth Fellowship Culture Fair. With coordination and sponsorship of the Ukrainian Cultural Center, UAC was able to put up a booth showing Ukrainian arts. The event happened in Grand Park on August 14th. Over 50 nations were invited and Ukraine was one of 25 that participated. The event was very well organized - having 100 volunteers and over 200 dancers (including our own Chervona Kalyna)! We were informed that 3000 people attended. This is expected to be an annual event so plan to be there next year!!!



3

Several UAC members submitted artwork for the Bridge Gallery exhibit put on by the Holodomor Committee in City Hall. This exhibit was on the 3rd floor and lasted most of August. Included in the works displayed were those of Mr. Stetsenko - father of one of our members, and artist for Disney Studio's during his lifetime. More on him later!



COMING UP:

Set aside October 23, 2016! Ukrainian Catholic University will have a fundraising banquet at the Ukrainian Cultural Center. Tickets will be available for purchase for the main event, which will include Bishop Boris Gudziak, entertainment by Serhiy Fomenko (FOMA), and a delicious luncheon. Tickets will also be available for the VIP event afterward at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary church.

JULIA BLUE - A Ukrainian Ethno-Indie Love Story

“JULIA BLUE” – UKRAINE, 2016. A SOLDIER FROM THE EAST. A GIRL FROM THE WEST. A WOUNDED SOUL. AN OPEN HEART. A COUNTRY AT WAR.

A NEW FEATURE FILM FROM WRITER/DIRECTOR ROXY TOPOROWYCH, PRODUCER NILOU SAFINYA AND ASSOCIATE PRODUCER LUBA KESKE.

It is two and a half years since the first protests took place on the Maidan in Kyiv. Sparked by Students in the fall of 2013, the Ukrainian Revolution changed a generation forever.

The motion picture, which was shot entirely in Ukraine, is a character-driven drama which dives into the psyches of a determined twenty-something, JULIA, and a damaged war hero, ENGLISH.

“JULIA BLUE” – a love story – captures the unvarnished realism of Ukraine today, highlighting a tragic constant of our times – youth growing up and building their identities during wartime.



The Film is in post-production in New York and has been selected as one of ten new narrative films by Independent Labs/Filmmaker Magazine for its prestigious year-long fellowship for first-time Directors!

The completed film will be submitted to top-tier Film Festivals in the fall of 2016, with theatrical and streaming distribution to follow.

BE A PART OF TELLING THIS MUCH-NEEDED STORY ABOUT A PEOPLE WHOSE STORY IS NOT OFTEN HEARD. YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS FILM BY DONATING TO THE COMPLETION THROUGH OUR WEBSITE: JULIABLUE.THEMOVIE.COM

THE HISTORY OF THE UKRAINIAN ART CENTER

Based in Los Angeles, California. UAC, Ukrainian Art Center is a non profit community organization. It was initiated by Daria Chaikovsky together with a group of like minded people in 1986 to preserve, promote and develop the Ukrainian arts in Los Angeles and California. It's initial goals reflect its present plan to create a new Ukrainian Museum in Los Angeles and to develop cultural and educational programs, alongside festivals and exhibitions. Mrs. Chaikovska worked tirelessly with the UAC Board alongside her own business, presenting folk festivals, lectures, workshops and community projects on a small scale,

consistently providing a much needed resource for the local area. Over the years UAC was the main focal point for Ukrainian arts and culture on the West coast and involved people from all ages and backgrounds including non Ukrainians. During these fruitful years the local city council and private patrons funded its activities including regular Annual Easter Pysanka and Holiday Yalynka events, exhibitions, concerts and more, encouraging many diverse groups and individuals to explore the richness of Ukrainian Culture.

Become a Member of UAC If you enjoyed any of UAC programs/events like Maidan, Road to Freedom, Pysanka Festival, Museum Fundraiser Auction, and other events and workshops over the years, you are invited to become Member of UAC and take part in development or have the opportunity to help the organization grow. A Ukrainian background is not necessary - just a passion for and a need to learn about Ukrainian contemporary arts and folk arts. You will work closely with our artists, board directors and other members. We could use your help and expertise in running future programs. Please email us at: ukrainianart@aol.com or call tel. 818-635-8999.

Newsletter The Board worked together to create a newly formatted newsletter. Previously several editions of the UAC Newsletters were published and after a break has reemerged in its new form and will be available soon online.

The UAC is run by a newly formed Board, each bringing with them unique skills and life experience that enriches the organization with a true commitment to developing its long term goals.

'The Ukrainian Art Center News' Editorial Group

Daria Chaikovsky - Editor in Chief | Olenka Krupa Griffies - Editor and designer | Ben Britten - Designer

Contributors: Olenka Krupa Griffies, Daria Chaikovsky, Luba Keske, Liudmila Wussek/ Printing by Peter Brecko

UAC Board and Volunteers: Daria Chaikovsky, Olenka Krupa Griffies, Luba Keske, Liudmila Wussek, Lyalya Lisowska, Olga Starow, Dr. Andriy Olesiuk, Deanna Stetzenko, Julia Michaels, Maxim Kuzin, Victoria Kuzin and everyone who worked very hard to make the newsletter happen.

Permission is granted to reprint original material, acknowledging UAC (a courtesy copy appreciated).

© Ukrainian Art Center Inc | 4315 Melrose Avenue | Hollywood, CA 90029 USA | tel. 818-635-8999 | email: ukrainianart@aol.com

